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**Indiana  
Curriculum  
Standards**  
1.1.1, 2.1.1, 3.1.2,  
4.1.6, 4.3.8

**Grade Level: 1-4**

**Supplies:** pieces of  
yarn, whistle, post-  
er board or dry  
erase board

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**"There I Grew Up..." A. Lincoln  
Little Pigeon Creek Community**

**Objectives:**

- Students will have an understanding of the nearby community of which the Lincolns were a part.

**Background:**

One of the Great Pigeon roosts! Southern Indiana was a feeding and breeding ground for the passenger pigeons. Passenger Pigeons have been said, in its day, to have numbered into the millions and to have been the most abundant of any bird in America. The Passenger Pigeons "literally formed clouds, and floated through the air in a frequent succession of these as far as the eye could reach, sometimes causing a sensible gust of wind, and a considerable motion of the trees over which they flew." Audubon observed, "Multitudes are seen, sometimes, in groups, at the estimate of a hundred and sixty-three flocks in 21 minutes. The noonday light is then darkened as by an eclipse, and the air filled with the dreamy buzzing of their wings."

Where did it get its name?

When the Lincolns settled in this area, it wasn't called Lincoln City. Instead, the settlement was named the Little Pigeon Creek Community, which got its name for the many passenger pigeons that lived in the Southern Indiana woods. Those pigeons are now extinct, which means they no longer exist. Today, there are laws against killing birds or animals in most National Parks. These laws protect endangered species, which might be living within park boundaries, and hopefully, help to keep other species from becoming extinct like the passenger pigeons.

**Instructions:**

**Survival Game**

1. Before the students arrive, scatter the pieces of yarn around the playing field.
2. Explain to the class that they will have to hunt for worms like the passenger pigeons did to survive. Divide the group into 2-4 equal teams. Describe what the worms will look like.
3. Arrange the groups at the starting line. Tell them that when you say "go" (or use a whistle for starting and stopping), they must run out onto the playing field and find a worm. When they do, they must run back and sit with their group. Each group gets a point for each worm they find. The first group to have each bird find a worm and return, wins an extra 5 points.
4. After you have played one round, record onto the poster board the score.
5. For each round after, place a hunter onto the playing field. The hunter will "tag" as many birds as he can. Each bird that gets tagged must sit down. Play until all birds are tagged.
6. Explain that the passenger pigeons were hunted until they became extinct, (which means they no longer exist).

